

SESSION 2

This week we continue with talking about the symbols of baptism. This session covers the oils. Next time you come to the parish see if you can spot the oils behind the baptism font.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Raylene



Anointed with Oil

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We continue to explore the relationship between our Baptism and Confirmation. In this session we reflect on the Chrism (KRIZ-um) oil.

Chrism is used both in baptism and confirmation.

In baptism the anointing symbolizes that the newly baptized has become like Christ.

In confirmation the anointing speaks of the anointing with the Spirit that Christ now shares with the Church.

The Goals of this session are as follows:

1. Understand why oil is used in the celebration of baptism
2. Understand that baptism calls us to a special way of life.
3. Continue to learn how in confirmation God strengthens us for the life to which we are called at baptism: life at the Eucharistic table and in the world.
- 4.

Let's talk about some of the ways we use oil in our homes.

1. Baby Oil-protects the baby. Oil in lotions protects our skin.

2. Oil makes things run smoother...like in our cars, our sewing machines
3. Things like vitamin E oil and Fish oil make our bodies healthier

In what ways might we say God is like oil?

1. God protects us
2. Our lives run smoother when God is in our lives
3. God can heal our pain and our sin.



Oil and Baptism.

The oil that is used during baptism is blessed oil, called sacred chrism (Kriz-um) Each year on the Monday of Holy Week (just before Easter) Archbishop Smith or Bishop Bittman bless the oils at a special Mass at the Basilica called the Chrism Mass. He blesses enough oil for all of the churches in the diocese for the whole year. These oils are presented to the churches at the Mass on Holy Thursday. Three special oils are blessed:

1. The Oil for the Anointing of the Sick. This oil is for comfort, strength and healing in times of sickness. Often a person suffering from a serious illness or facing major surgery asks to celebrate the anointing of the sick. This used to be called Last Rites. This is no longer the case and a person can receive the anointing of the sick as often as is necessary.
2. The Oil of Catechumens. This oil is used to strengthen the catechumen (unbaptized) on his or her journey toward baptism. Babies may be anointed with the oil of catechumens before baptism. This is called a preparatory rite.
3. The Chrism Oil. Chrism oil is used in 4 anointings:
 - a. In baptism if the person will not be confirmed right away.
 - b. In the sacrament of confirmation
 - c. In the sacrament of holy orders
 - d. At the anointing of the church walls and the altar within the rite of dedication of a church and an altar.

When you come to church you will find these three oils in a cabinet behind the baptism font. Have a look and see if you can find them.

When you were baptized the priest anointed your head with Chrism oil. The oil is poured and the priest traced the cross on the crown of your head.

At your baptism the church used both water and perfumed oil. Why do you think the church chose to use these two things instead of juice and milk or wine and cold tea?

1. Perfumed oil smells. It is a sign that something is different, that something has changed.
2. Water was chosen because it cleanses, our clothes, our bodies, our dishes. Water symbolizes the cleansing of our sins.

The oil is an important symbol but so is the action of anointing.

What is the difference between anointing a person and putting oil on our own skin?

1. Putting oil on our own skin is just maintenance. It has no other meaning except to keep our skin from drying out.
2. When you are anointed it is someone else anointing us for a specific reason.

Can you think of some times when people are anointed?

1. Baptism and Confirmation and Holy orders and if you are sick.
2. Ancient Greek athletes were anointed before they competed in the Olympic Games.
3. The anointing at the beginning of the “Lion King” when Rafiki anoints Simba.



In all of these cases the anointing shows that something has changed.

So why are we anointed at Confirmation:

1. We are anointed to remind us that we are part of God's royal family.
2. The Chrism oil reminds us that we have been joined to Jesus and given a special task or job.

3. The sacred chrism reminds us that new life in Christ touches all parts of us. The oil does not simply stay on the surface of our skin but absorbs into our body.
4. Christ dwells within us.

Just before you were anointed at baptism the priest said:

“God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people.

He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.”

What does this mean?

To be anointed as a Priest: a priest is a messenger between God and people, carrying a message of God’s love to earth and prayer from the earth back to God. You are a priest...each time you feed the hungry, or are kind and forgiving you show God’s love to people on earth. Each time you pray for someone you send a message to God.

To be anointed as a Prophet: a prophet is a person who reminds people of God’s truth and ways. When you stand up to a bully, when you participate in religion class, when you respect your teachers and your parents you are a prophet.

To be anointed as a King: your job is to look after those you are in charge of. Rules are for the good of the people, not for the king. It is your job to forgive your brother and to give him a second chance even if you really don’t feel like it.

You are a **priest, prophet and king** and are part of a Royal family. You are called to live differently.

So how are we called to live differently because of our baptism?

Through our baptism we have been changed forever: we have become part of God’s holy people.

We have a very special job to fulfill. Our baptism is a beginning, not an end. We are called to live as disciples and continue the work of Jesus in the world. Jesus is our role model for living our lives.

What did Jesus do? How did he live?

1. He cared for others
2. He helped them
3. He taught them about God.
4. He loved people, even those who were mean to Him.

5. He forgave people
6. He told stories about God and lived the message that he taught.

If Jesus did these things, how can we live like him? When we answer this question it is important to think about specific ways we can live like Jesus. For example:

1. We can forgive our brothers and/or sisters when they do something that makes us angry.
2. We can help to feed the poor by giving to the Strathcona Food Bank or by bringing food into the school when they are collecting.
3. We can be kind to that one kid in our class that everybody thinks is weird.
4. We can stand up for those who are being bullied.

Are these easy things to do? No they really are not. When you stick up for someone you may get teased. It isn't easy to forgive our brothers and sisters because they are really good at making us mad. We might feel strange carrying a box of Kraft Dinner onto the bus to bring into school.

Jesus does not expect us to do this by ourselves.

Jesus has sent the Holy Spirit to help us live as his disciples. In Confirmation we are anointed with sacred chrism and we are sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is so immense that it cannot be described in just one word. We use seven words or traits to describe the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Three of these words are:

Wisdom - is the gift of knowing the right choices to make to live a holy life. The gift of wisdom helps you to avoid the things that could lead you away from God.

Understanding - is the gift of comprehension, or the ability to grasp the meaning of the teachings of the Church. The gift of understanding helps you be tolerant and sympathetic of others. It helps you sense when someone is hurting or in need of compassion.

Courage-is the gift that helps you stand up for your faith in Christ. The gift of courage helps you overcome any obstacles that would keep you from practicing your faith. This gift allows you to stand up for what is right even though you may be afraid.



How do we get these gifts to help us?

Imagine if you will a nice tall glass of cold milk. Into this milk we are going to pour some chocolate syrup. What happens to the syrup? (it sinks to the bottom) How do we get chocolate milk? (We stir the syrup up)



You are the tall glass of milk. The Holy Spirit is the chocolate syrup. To receive help from the Holy Spirit all we need to do is stir it up. We do this by asking, praying, for help.

Not only do we have the Gift of the Holy Spirit to help us, we also have the celebration of the Eucharist. Each Sunday we have the opportunity to gather together and hear the Word of God and to receive the Gift of Jesus' body and blood. We gather together as a community and through all of these things we are supported in our effort to live as Jesus did.



Please complete the questions below

1. Why is oil used in the sacraments of baptism and confirmation?

2. What does it mean to us to be anointed Priest, Prophet and King

3. What are two of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and how do these gifts help us to live as Jesus did?